IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re U.S. Patent Application of:

Applicant(s): Peltason et al.

Serial No.: 10/657,935

Conf No.: 1598

For: WATER SOFTENER MAINFOLD
RETAINER ASSEMBLY

Art Unit: 1723

Examiner: Unassigned

)
) I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the
) United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an
) envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box
) 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

May 5, 2005

Date

Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 31,497INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), after the C.F.R. §1.97(b) time period, but before the mail date of a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance (whichever occurs first), with either:

- (a) a statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e); or
(b) the \$180.00 fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

(X) Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e):

(X) The listed references on Form PTO-1449 were cited in an International Search Report issued by the European Patent Office (copy enclosed). Applicant(s) hereby certify that each item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

() Applicant(s) hereby certify that no item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing below after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

() Enclosed is a check for \$180.00 to cover the fee as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

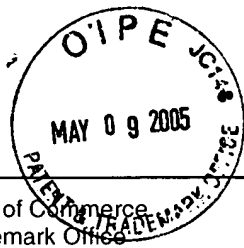
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce
(Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office

Attorney Docket No.: 0308.67558

Serial No.: 10/657,935

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant: Peltason et al.

Filing Date: 9/8/2003

Group: Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initial* | Document Number | Date | Name | Class | Subclass | Filing Date If Appropriate |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| | 6,032,821 | Mar. 7, 2000 | Wichmann et al. | | | |
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| | Document Number | Date | Country | Class | Subclass | Translation | |
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OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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Examiner

Date Considered

*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.